

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A sliding element for providing a seal against a fluid between sliding faces of a pair of relatively slidable components, one of said components being a stationary sliding element and the other of said components being a rotary sliding element, said fluid being located in either inner circumferential side or outer circumferential side of said sliding faces, said sliding element comprising:
 - a) dimples being disposed on at least one sliding face of said sliding faces and being inclined towards a rotary direction when viewed facing said fluid along a radial direction and being made longitudinally long along the inclination;
 - b) a plurality of dimple sections having annular forms of different radii and being disposed on said sliding face and having said dimples being arranged along said annular forms; and
 - c) a plurality of dam sections having annular forms and being disposed between said dimple sections.
2. The sliding element as in claim 1 wherein said dimples of said dimple sections line up along a circular arc and a groove width of said dimples gradually increases towards said fluid side.
3. The sliding element as in claim 1 wherein a groove end of said dimples of said dimple sections is open towards said fluid side.
4. The sliding element as in claim 1 wherein at least a first dam section is disposed on a circumferential edge portion of said sliding face which is located on the opposite side of said fluid side.
5. The sliding element as in claim 1 wherein a width of said dam sections in a radial direction is made smaller than a longitudinal length of said dimples.

